



Official ID is key to protecting Wisconsin's livestock industry; DATCP has tools to help you

Protecting Wisconsin's livestock industry from an animal disease is a primary function of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture's Division of Animal Health. One important element of achieving this goal is to ensure that animals traveling in and out of the state are properly identified and accurate records are kept for each animal.

While the state was always vigilant about animal identification as part of its responsibility to the USDA-APHIS to demonstrate that we have traceability for disease response, the agency has made a concerted effort to reinforce education about official identification requirements. This action was taken as a result of the USDA's rule implemented last year that minimally changed official identification (ID) requirements for animals shipping interstate.

"The USDA's ruling generally requires livestock moving interstate to be officially identified and have a certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI), which is consistent with the existing regulations in Wisconsin. These records give us the ability to trace an animal to a specific location in the event of a disease outbreak," said Dr. Paul McGraw, DATCP's State Veterinarian.

The primary changes for Wisconsin livestock shippers are that dairy steers born after March 11, 2013 are required to be officially identified to move interstate and that some forms of ID previously considered acceptable for cattle are no longer valid.

Since March 11, 2013, breed registration tattoos, breed registration numbers, and brands are acceptable for interstate movement ***only if the state of origin and the state of destination approve and have an agreement.*** Wisconsin has no agreements in place and no current plans to develop any agreements.

In addition, American ID and 900 series tags cannot be applied to animals for use as official ID on or after March 11, 2015. Animals bearing these types of official ID before this date do not need to be retagged.

"Breed registration tattoos and registration numbers are still official ID for sheep, goats and other species, but not for cattle," McGraw said.

When moving livestock interstate, the federal rule requires that:

- All female dairy cattle must be officially identified
- All male dairy cattle (including steers) born after March 11, 2013 must be officially identified
- All rodeo, exhibition, show or event cattle (including steers of all breeds) must be officially identified
- All sexually intact cattle over 18 months of age must be officially identified by federal rule to move interstate. However, existing Wisconsin regulations require all sexually intact animals of any age or breed to be officially identified to be imported into Wisconsin.
- Beef steers are not required to be officially identified unless participating in a rodeo or show
- A backtag will still work as slaughter ID and a CVI is not required for animals going direct to slaughter

Slaughter animals moving interstate may move into a federally approved market without official ID or a CVI:

- They must be released to be shipped directly to slaughter on a backtag.
- The buyer must notify the market if these animals are going anywhere other than to slaughter so import requirements may be met.
- In state slaughter animals or animals that have met import requirements may move through a dealer premises while being shipped to slaughter.
- All other cattle being shipped to slaughter must be shipped directly to slaughter without off-loading unless they go to an intermediate handling facility that is approved by the department and USDA.

Wisconsin origin feeder cattle that remain in feeder channels (not diverted for breeding) may move through markets or dealers without being officially identified or having the ID recorded.

Acceptable ID forms, as defined in the rule, are:

- U.S. origin 15 digit eartags starting with 840
- National Uniform Eartag System (NUES) tags (Brite tags) which are nine digit alphanumeric tags starting with the state code. These include the orange brucellosis calfhood vaccination tags.
- American ID and 900 series RFID tags when applied to animals prior to March 11, 2015
- Tags consisting of a premises ID and individual animal number
- Other official ID approved by the USDA

The Department has created a unique tool to aid you in determining the proper official identification to use for certain animals. The agency's "Official Livestock Identification Reference Deck" is easy to use and quick to acquire at <http://datcp.wi.gov>. For more information about animal movement, visit animalmovement.datcp.wi.gov.

Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act is now law

The long-awaited Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act (H.R. 1528), enabling veterinarians to provide complete medical care beyond their clinics and across state lines is now law.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has developed a list of frequently-asked questions and is updating tools on Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) registration numbers to help members better understand how the new law directly affects them. In the meantime, any questions about compliance with the new law should be directed to the diversion control program manager at the nearest DEA field office.

Will you and your animals be ready to endure cold winter weather?

It's only early October, but the briskness in the air indicates that winter will be here soon. While your first thought might be to worry about challenging commutes to work or lament having to scrape snow off your car, imagine how the change of seasons impacts the animals you keep outdoors.

"Many people spend hours planning how to keep themselves warm at football games, organizing holiday parties, and worrying about all the ordinary things that can go wrong in cold weather, all of which can distract them from thinking about the risks that animals face as temperatures drop," says Dr. Yvonne Bellay of the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection. "Animals can suffer from hypothermia, frostbite and other cold weather injuries, and harsh conditions can weaken their immune systems, leaving them vulnerable to illness. You need to think about extra nutrition, access to water, plenty of good bedding, and proper shelter for both pets and livestock."

She offers these tips for pet owners:

- **Food**—Outdoor pets need more food, of good quality, in cold weather to produce body heat.
- **Shelter**—Outdoor animals need a dry shelter that's large enough for them to stand, sit, turn around and lie down comfortably, but not so large that its normal body heat is lost. Line the bottom with dry, nonabsorbent material that won't get wet, matted, and frozen. Marsh hay works well; leaves and fabric do not.
- **Water**—Don't make your outdoor pets rely on ice or snow for water, because the animal has to expend too much body heat melting them. Use an inexpensive heater that sits right in the water bowl to prevent freezing. If you can't do that, fill the bowl with fresh, tepid water at least twice a day.
- **Walking**—Keep your dog leashed. Snow and ice can make it difficult for dogs to follow a scent, so they may lose their way and be wandering in bitter cold. Protect their paws from sharp ice and salt, either with booties or by cleaning their paws thoroughly when they come inside. Short-haired dogs need sweaters outdoors in extreme cold weather.
- **Grooming**—Wet, dirty, matted coats cannot insulate against the cold, so be sure your animals are well-groomed, but not shaved. After bathing an animal, dry it thoroughly before letting it outdoors.
- **Cars**—Bang on the hood before starting the car on cold days to startle any sleeping animals that may have sought shelter there. And remember, don't leave your pet alone in a vehicle. It may freeze to death.
- **Sleeping**—Even indoor animals need a warm place to sleep, off the floor and out of drafts, especially old or ill animals.

For livestock owners, Bellay advises:

- **Shelter**—Generally, a 20-mph wind is about equal to a 30-degree drop in temperature. Make sure animals have a place to get out of the wind, even if it is just a windbreak or a three-sided shelter, and that other buildings don't deflect wind and snow into the shelter.
- **Food**—Livestock kept outdoors will need more food than usual — and good quality food. As a general rule, nutrient requirements increase about 1 percent for every degree that the temperature falls below 20 degrees F. Horses' nutrition requirements increase below 45 degrees F.
- **Water**—Provide access to fresh water – not frozen streams or snow – daily. Stock tank heaters and frost-proof watering systems will ensure that livestock get enough to drink.
- **Bedding**—Keep plenty of dry bedding to insulate udders and legs from frostbite.
- **Moisture**—Long hair or fleece insulates only when it is dry. Wet or muddy hair or fleece loses insulating ability and actually cools the animal as it dries.
- **Transportation**—When hauling animals, especially calves and swine, cover openings in the vehicle box to cut wind chill and keep rain out, but allow some air to pass over the animals for ventilation. Provide a deep bed of dry straw for calves younger than 4 weeks or for any swine. Be especially careful with animals recently brought in from warmer climates that may not be acclimated.

Small Bites—Important reminders and updates

Interstate Animal Movement

For animals leaving the state, questions concerning regulations should be directed to the state veterinarian's office of the destination state where the animals are being sent.

Caudal Fold Tuberculin Storage Extension

Recently, the USDA-Veterinary Services extended the time period that open bottles of tuberculin used for caudal fold testing (CFT) can be retained. New guidance states that CFT should be properly discarded 3 months after its initial use. Originally, CFT could not be retained for longer than 2 weeks. Please note, however, that comparative cervical paired tuberculins and cervical tuberculins are to be properly discarded after use at the end of each day.

Tuberculin Ordering Changes

Private practitioners can now order tuberculin directly from National Veterinary Services Laboratory. Instructions and forms required to place orders can be found on the [DATCP website](#).

Johne's Disease Vaccination Update

Rule changes that went into effect June 1, 2014 have eliminated the need for a Johne's disease vaccinating herd to secure a vaccination agreement with every veterinary clinic they hire to vaccinate calves. When a herd initiates a Johne's vaccination program, they still need to meet the same prerequisites which include a positive organism detection based test, a whole herd TB test, a Johne's risk assessment and herd management plan (RAMP), and a vaccination agreement. Once this initial agreement is in place, a herd owner can work with any Johne's disease vaccination certified veterinarian they choose. Veterinarians should ensure a herd is eligible to vaccinate by viewing a copy of the herd vaccination agreement and current RAMP. If the herd owner does not have or cannot find this paperwork, they should contact the Johne's Disease Control Program at 608-224-4893 or DATCPJohnes@wi.gov. We can send this information to the herd owner who can then share it with the veterinarian.

Changes in Cattle Official Identification for In-State Purposes

Rule changes that went into effect June 1, 2014 have affected the type of identification considered to be official for cattle in Wisconsin. Just like with interstate movement, official ID for purposes within Wisconsin include:

- National Uniform Eartagging System (NUES) tags - metal tag with 9 character format starting with state two digit code followed by 3 letters and 4 numbers (35ABC1234). This includes the orange brucellosis vaccination tags.
- 840 tags – Visual-only or RFID tag that consists of 15 digit number starting with “840”
- Manufacturer coded tags – RFID tag that consists of 15 digit number starting with 3 digit manufacturer code in a 900 series (such as “985”, “982”, etc.)
- American ID – Visual-only tag that consists of 8-12 numbers preceded by “USA”

This means that breed registration numbers and tattoos are no longer considered official identification for cattle. The change affects any event requiring official identification in Wisconsin such as tuberculosis, brucellosis, and Johne’s disease testing as well as brucellosis vaccination. Be sure to include the entire official number on testing and vaccination reports and submission forms.

Free resources for farm workers and veterinarians now available from Migrant Clinicians Network (MCN)

Over 80% of farm workers and 73% of swine veterinarians working in animal agriculture have accidentally stuck themselves. Needlestick injuries are usually minor, but they can be serious. A new bilingual resource developed by the Upper Midwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (UMASH) educates dairy workers on how to prevent needlestick injuries. [This fact sheet](#) also provides information on steps to take following a needlestick injury. For Spanish, [click here](#).

MCN's [Bilingual Picture Dictionary, "Seguridad en Palabras/ Safety in Words,"](#) illustrates work place hazards and best practices for health and safety in agriculture. Developed with support from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Susan Harwood Grant Program, this resource will help bolster Hispanic workers' English vocabulary and help prevent agricultural injuries.